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hilly areas of the Thovala taluk has been mapped so far. The investigation conducted so far has not brought to light any occurrence of gold-bearing quartz. The minerals so far met with are graphite and ilmenite. The systematic mapping of the district will be continued in the ensuing field season.

SRI S. T. ADITYAN : Graphite, as everybody knows, is a kind of ordinary building stone. Considering that ilmenite may be valuable, may I know the quantity that is available there and whether it is valuable from the point of view of economics?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The quantity is just of the order of 15,000 tons.

SRI T. G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Is the Hon. Minister aware that graphite is not a building stone but a kind of coal, carbon?

SRI S. T. ADITYAN : I thought it was granite.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The information may be exchanged between the two Members.

Payment of salary to the ayahs in the Gobichettipalayam Block Development area. 3-10 p.m.

* 9 *Q.*—SRI K. M. RAMASAMY GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there has been inordinate delay in the payment of salary to the ayahs employed in the different maternity and child welfare centres in the Gobichettipalayam Block Development area and, if so, the reasons therefor;

(*b*) whether those centres have been recently taken over by the Health Department; and

(*c*) if so, from what date?

THE HON. SRI. M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) There was some delay in the payment of salary to ayahs attached to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the Gobichettipalayam Block Development area, due to administrative reasons. The salaries of the ayahs have since been paid up to date.

(*b*) Yes, Sir.

(*c*) From 9th August 1957.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I know whether the delay has been in the case of ayahs alone or whether there has been any delay in the case of other categories of employees also?

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question relates to ayahs only.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The question relates to ayahs and information was got only about them.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : When district boards and municipalities were functioning, all other categories of employees were paid first and teachers were paid last. Is it so that in this case, ayahs were paid last and that there was no delay in the case of others in that Block?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Anyway, teachers are not involved in this. (Laughter.)

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : I have brought in only the analogy of teachers. I hope the Hon. Minister will understand my question. My question is why there should be delay in payment in the case of ayahs alone. I want to know whether there was any delay in the case of other employees also or whether they were paid regularly.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : This does not refer to municipalities and district boards. It refers to the Block Development Office. The administration was changed over from the Block Development Department to the Public Health Department. The change over took place on 6th January 1958 and we had to get the last pay certificates and all that. Payment was made on 24th February 1958.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : May I know why teachers and ayahs are mixed up by the hon. Member representing the Teachers' constituency?

SRI K. M. RAMASAMY GOUNDER : Is it a fact that these centres have been retransferred to the Primary Health Centres or the Medical Department?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The question of paying ayahs and others was being dealt with by the Block Development Office. But now the Public Health Department is asked to do that.

SRI K. M. RAMASAMY GOUNDER : On reliable information, I know that the maternity centres are again transferred back to the Primary Health Centres and that doctors there are in charge of these.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The Member's sources of information seem to be speedier than mine. If he can give sufficient information, I shall tell him the position.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : While the Hon. Minister has failed to have any appreciation of the difficulties of the ayahs, is it wrong on the part of the teachers' representative to have some sympathy for them?

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : 24–2–58 அன்று சம்பளம் பட்டுவாடா செய்யப்பட்டதாக அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் கூறினார்கள். கனம் அங்கத்தினருடைய கேள்வி அரசாங்கத்திற்கு வந்தபிறகு சம்பள பாக்கி பட்டுவாடா செய்யப்பட்டதா ? அல்லது அதற்கு முன்னாலேயே கொடுக்கப்பட்டதா ?

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : தேதியெல்லாம் பார்த்துப் பதில் சொல்லவேண்டுமென்றால், நேரம் ஆகும். தலைவர் அவர்கள் நேரம் கொடுத்தால் பார்க்க முடியும். இல்லாவிட்டால் பார்க்க முடியாது. (சிரிப்பு.)

General elections to the Corporation and the municipal councils.

* 10 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) when the term of office of the present members of the Council of the Corporation of Madras and the municipal councils in the State expires; and

(b) whether and, if so, what steps have been taken by the Government to conduct general elections for the above Councils?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : (a) The term expires on the noon of the 1st November 1958 both in the case of the Corporation of Madras and the municipal councils in the State.

(b) It is proposed to postpone the elections to municipal councils and the Corporation of Madras for a period of six months, that is to say, up to the 30th April 1959. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Madras District Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1958, and the Madras City Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1958.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : In view of the answer of the Hon. Minister, may I presume that there will be no need for further postponement of elections beyond the period of six months?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : It is clearly stated that we are asking for postponement only by six months. There will be no necessity for us to ask for a further postponement.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. Minister enlighten us on whether the preliminary arrangements are already afoot for holding the elections after the extended period?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : Now a six months' period has been asked for and during that period we will try to do what we have to do for the conducting of elections. It will be done according to the time scheduled here, i.e., by 30th April 1959.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether this extension will apply only to Members or whether it will apply to the Chairmen of Municipal Councils and also the Mayor of the Madras Corporation?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : It will apply to all members of municipalities and the Corporation of Madras.